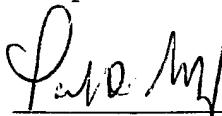


Arnett discloses collar 70 in which connectors 73 are mounted, and also discloses adapter 78 containing a single coupler 79. However, Applicants have not found Arnett to disclose any features or components that provide a connection to both a connector and an apparatus port. Furthermore, Examiner has not indicated a feature that Examiner considers to be an adapter. Therefore, Arnett does not disclose "at least two adapters, each adapter comprises an adapter contact adapted for providing a connection with one of the apparatus ports and a connector contact adapted for providing a connection with the connector", as recited in claim 15. Thus, Arnett does not anticipate claim 15.

For the reasons set forth above, it is submitted that the rejection of claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Arnett is erroneous. Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 15 be withdrawn.

Favorable consideration is respectfully urged. An indication of the allowability of all pending claims by issuance of a Notice of Allowability is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,



Paul D. Greeley

Reg. No. 31,019

Attorney for Applicant(s)

Ohlandt, Greeley, Ruggiero & Perle, L.L.P.

One Landmark Square, 10th Floor

Stamford, CT 06901-2682

Tel: (203) 327-4500

Fax: (203) 327-6401

Date: 9-20-04